

REMARKS

Claims 33 through 55, and 57 through 65 are pending in the application, and of these, claims 33 – 52, 57, 64 and 65 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 through 32 were previously canceled.

On February 4, 2004, Applicants conducted a teleconference with Examiner Shafer. Applicants thank Examiner Shafer for making time for the teleconference.

In the Final Action, claims 53 through 55, and 58 through 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by International Patent Publication No. WO 99/57732 to Schultz et al. (hereinafter “the '732 publication”). The Advisory Action maintained the section 102(a) rejection, and implied that a translation of a foreign priority document would be required to overcome the rejection.

Claim 53 of the present application is an independent claim that provides for a multi-mirror system for an illumination system for lithography. The multi-mirror system includes an imaging system that, in turn, includes, *inter alia*, a field forming optical component in a path after a normal incidence mirror for producing an arc-shaped field. The field forming optical component includes a grazing incidence mirror having negative optical power.

The Final Action does not provide an express citation to a passage or figure in the '732 publication to support the assertion that the '732 publication discloses the field forming optical component of claim 53. Instead, the Final Action notes that the '732 publication discloses a field forming optical component that includes a grazing incidence mirror, and states that the grazing incidence mirror “inherently has a negative optical power.”

However, the '732 publication is written in German, and so, the Final Action notes that the '732 publication has an English language counterpart, namely, U.S. Patent No.

6,400,794 to Schultz et al. (hereinafter "the '794 patent"). The Final Action refers to the '794 patent, and notes that claims 4 and 5 of the '794 patent disclose a grazing incidence mirror having a negative optical power. In reliance on this disclosure in the '794 patent, the Final Action concludes that the '732 publication anticipates claim 53.

During the teleconference, Applicants and Examiner Shafer reviewed the '794 patent, and Applicants explained that the '794 patent does not disclose the field forming optical component of claim 53. More specifically, Applicants explained that claims 4 and 5 of the '794 patent are directed to components of a **collector unit** that is introduced in claim 3 of the '794 patent. As such, claims 4 and 5 of the '794 patent do not disclose a **field forming optical component in a path after a normal incidence mirror for producing an arc-shaped field**, as recited in claim 53.

Whereas the '794 patent does not disclose the field forming optical component of claim 53, Applicants respectfully submit that the '732 publication also does not disclose the field forming optical component of claim 53. Consequently, the '732 publication does not anticipate claim 53.

Claims 54, 55 and 58 through 63 depend from claim 53. As such, the '732 publication also does not anticipate claims 54, 55 and 58 through 63.

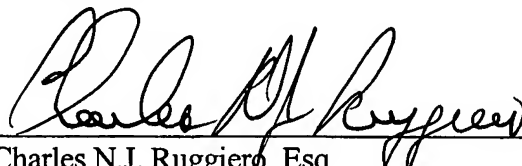
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 102(a) rejection of claims 53 through 55 and 58 through 63.

Since the '732 publication does not anticipate claims 53 through 55 and 58 through 63, Applicants do not need to rely on the disclosures of the foreign priority documents to overcome the section 102(a) rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner waive the requirement for Applicants to submit a translation of the priority documents.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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